

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 170750Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6836
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREPJLLE
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 1483

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, PBOR, CHD, LY
SUBJ: SITUATION IN CHAD

1. IN A FAREWELL CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER KAMOUGUE
ON APRIL 15, I AGAIN REVIEWED OUR POSITION ON MILITARY
ASSISTANCE TO CHAD. LIKE VICE PRESIDENT KJIME, KAMOUGUE
WAS UNDERSTANDING OF THE LEGAL PROBLEMS WE FACED;
HOWEVER, HE ALSO STRESSED THAT CHAD WAS IN A
TERRIBLY WEAK MILITARY POSITION AND DESPERATELY
NEEDED OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE: HE SAID THAT WHILE NEGO-
TIATIONS WITH LIBYAN-BACKED FACTIONS MIGHT LAST FOR
SEVERAL MONTHS, THERE SEEMED NO HOPE OF A SUCCESSFUL
CONCLUSION. HE NOTED PARTICULARLY THAT REBEL RADIO
WAS CONTINUING ITS ATTACKS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT,
THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO PROGRESS ON THE RELEASE OF
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CHADIAN PRISONERS IN THE NORTH, AND THAT FRESH MILITARY
EQUIPMENT FROM LIBYA CONTINUED TO ARRIVE, PARTICULARLY
IN EASTERN CHAD. NOTING RECENT CARLUCCI
TESTIMONY TO CONGRESS ON SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA,
KAMOUGUE SAID HE HOPED WE WERE WAKING UP, EVEN IF
IT MIGHT BE TOO LATE TO HELP CHAD.

2. KAMOUGUE'S BEARING THROUGHOUT THE INTERVIEW MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE IS ONCE AGAIN A FULL FLEDGED MEMBER OF THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL. HE SPOKE WITH DECISION AND FIRMNESS, BUT SEEMED TO BE COMPLETELY IN TUNE WITH POSITIONS RECENTLY TAKEN BY PRESIDENT MALLOUM AND VICE PRESIDENT DJIME.

3. IN AN EARLIER CONVERSATION, ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD ME THAT HE HAD SPENT ALMOST A MONTH IN KINSHASA TRYING TO WORK OUT SOME SORT OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE GESTURE WHICH WOULD SHOW HIS GOVERNMENT'S SOLIDARITY WITH CHAD. HE HAD FOUND PRESIDENT MOBUTU CONVINCED THAT HE MUST MAKE CLEAR HIS DETERMINATION TO HELP OTHER MODERATE STATES OPPOSE SOVIET INROADS. HE SAID THE GESTURE WAS ABORTED AT THE LAST MINUTE BECAUSE OF MOBUTU'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS, BUT THAT HE WAS HOPEFUL ONCE THINGS HAD CALMED DOWN IN KINSHASA AGAIN, SOMETHING COULD BE DONE.

4. I SAW FRENCH AMBASSADOR FOLLOWING CONVERSATION WITH KAMOUGUE AND HESEEMS TO SHARE KAMOUGUE'S LACK OF ASSURANCE ON ANY HOPE FOR MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOUKOUNI OR QADHAFI. GOWEVER, HE FEELS SITUATION WILL ROCK ALONG BASICALLY UNCHANGED AT LEAST UNTIL JUNE 7 TRIPOLI MEETING. IN AN INTERESTING ASIDE, HE MENTIONED THAT MALLOUM HAD ORIGINALLY CONFIDENTIAL

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HOPED AND ASKED FOR ENOUGH FRENCH MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO MOVE NORTH AND RE-TAKE FAYA LARGEAU. HE SAID THIS WAS CLEARLY NOT IN THE CARDS, BUT THAT FRANCE WOULD HELP MALLOUM DEFEND THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF CHAD IF THE REBELS WERE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO ATTACK. BRADFORD

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